

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

***ARCHIVES INFORMATION CIRCULAR***

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Raleigh, North Carolina

**MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS  
IN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE ARCHIVES  
1918-1968**

DESTRUCTION OF FEDERAL RECORDS

The destruction of approximately 82 percent of the World War I military personnel records and World War II Army personnel records in the July 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (Military) in St. Louis <http://www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html> was the greatest loss of records in the history of the United States. Many, probably most, veterans who have never established claims through the Veterans Administration are afraid they will be unable to do so. This is not necessarily the case; records of Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps veterans were not destroyed though they were damaged. Air Force records of servicemen with surnames beginning with letters "A" through "T" who served between 1947 and 1964 had been computerized before the fire and thus are intact.

AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES

Though the North Carolina State Archives has no records that will establish or support benefit claims for disabled veterans, it does have some records which will be sufficient to establish the identity of a claimant as a serviceman. These records are the reports that were completed at the time of the veteran's separation from military service. A copy of a veteran's record of service or report of separation can be furnished by the North Carolina State Archives at no cost to: the veteran, his next of kin, or designated agent; a Veterans Service Officer; or, in case of burial benefit claims, the funeral director undertaking the burial of a veteran who was honorably discharged. If the veteran had his report of separation from military service recorded by the register of deeds in his or her county, a copy of the record can be obtained from that office.

WORLD WAR I

The North Carolina State Archives has on file reports of military service for approximately 86,000 North Carolinians who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard during World War I. A duplicate set (photostat) of these reports has been furnished to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO.

## WORLD WAR II

Reports of separation from military service for approximately 300,000 North Carolina veterans who served between 1940 and 1948 are in the North Carolina State Archives. These records are arranged in two groups: (1) men who registered with local draft boards prior to service (Registrants); and (2) servicewomen and men who enlisted at an age exempted from the provisions of the draft act (Non-Registrants).

Except for the records of registrant veterans from Alamance through Buncombe Counties, these reports are carbon copies of poor quality, from which it is not always possible to get a clear photocopy. Separation reports of men who registered with the draft boards of Alamance through Buncombe Counties have been retyped on "Statement of Service, WW II" forms, and their separation reports were destroyed many years ago.

## POST-WORLD WAR II

The State Archives has on file approximately 10,000 separation reports for North Carolinians who registered with local draft boards and served on active duty between the years 1948 to 1955; this small group of records is not complete. Approximately 14,000 separation reports are on file for North Carolina non-registrants who were on active duty between the years 1955 and 1968. Since these reports are carbon copies of poor quality, it is not always possible to get a clear photocopy of them. The State Archives does not have any separation reports after June 30, 1968. As a result, the only record searched for requests concerning separations after June 30, 1968, is the State Archives' microfilm copy of the reports filed with each county's register of deeds.

## NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

For information concerning North Carolina National Guard service, please contact one of the following:

1897-1940      North Carolina State Archives      (919) 733-3952

1941-present      North Carolina National Guard      (919) 664-6141  
(an automated phone attendant will direct your call)

## TO ORDER A COPY OF A VETERAN'S RECORD

Requests for North Carolina State Archives records of service and separation reports can be made through local veterans service officers or directly to the State Archives. In order to locate the correct individual record, it is usually necessary to know as much of the following information as possible: name used in service; service number; branch of service; dates of service; race; residence at the time of entering service; date of birth; county in which registered with the draft board; military unit; and grade, rate, or rank.